

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims, in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A PDA magnetic stripe reader ("MSR") attachable device to a personal digital assistant ("PDA"), the PDA having a data display, a synchronization port and hot sync capabilities, the MSR comprising:

- (a) magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe;
- (b) electrical power transfer means for transferring electric power from the PDA to the MSR and for exchanging data between the MSR and the PDA through the PDA synchronization port, whereby said PDA attachable device solely derives its electrical power for said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means from the erasable interface signals supplied by the PDA; and
- (c) power management means for managing electrical power consumption, whereby said PDA attachable device efficiently controls power consumption to conserve PDA supplied electrical power enabling greater operational times for said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means that control an automatic startup of the PDA and of the means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe upon detecting encoded data on the magnetic stripe.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The PDA attachable device magnetic stripe reader according to claim 1, wherein said power management means for managing electrical power consumption comprise the includes the initiation of an automatic startup of the PDA during a card swipe accomplished by imitating the PDA's hot sync operation upon detecting encoded data on the magnetic stripe by simulating a hot sync of the PDA.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 3, wherein said automatic startup of the PDA ~~during a card swipe upon detecting encoded data on the magnetic stripe~~ is accomplished by replacing the PDA's hot sync driver with a driver that differentiates between ~~[[a]] the hot sync and said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe,~~ and thereby said driver sets the PDA to operate accordingly.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 1, wherein said ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means includes a removable memory module for data logging in data applications where the PDA does not support non-volatile memory.~~ means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe include a removable processor/memory module.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 5, wherein said ~~removeable memory~~ processor/memory module includes a memory module is capable of storing multiple data format specifications and of converting varied magnetic stripe data formats into a standardized single format for data logging and ~~[[or]] outputting to [[a]] the PDA.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): The ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 6, wherein said ~~memory processor/memory module capable of storing multiple data format specifications and converting varied magnetic stripe data formats into a standardized single format for data logging and or outputting to a PDA is used for~~ capable of reading the different decoding formats -age utilized on driver licenses and on other state-issued documents, verification whereby when states having the enabling the display on the PDA of age and physical attributes in a single standardized output in varying formats the output can be standardized for the PDA age verification application.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 6, wherein said ~~memory processor/memory module capable of storing multiple data format specifications and converting varied magnetic stripe data formats into a standardized single format for data logging and or outputting to a PDA further includes the ability to limit or prevent sensitive data from being sent~~ is capable of preventing transmission to the PDA of predetermined types of data encoded on the magnetic stripe.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5, wherein said ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing~~ operational means includes a removable processor/memory module ~~[[for]]~~ is capable of uploading field installable application software such as including software for age verification applications.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 1, wherein said ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing~~ operational means includes a magnetic stripe reader attachable to a PDA with the capability to verify means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe have the capability of verifying the authenticity of the magnetic stripe data before sending the magnetic stripe data to the PDA.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 1, wherein said ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing~~ operational means includes a magnetic stripe reader attached to a PDA with the capability to encode the sensitive magnetic stripe data before sending the data to the PDA thereby allowing sensitive information such as credit card numbers to be forwarded to the means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe are capable of encrypting and storing the data exchanged with the PDA prior to forwarding said data to a processing agency without being available to the readable by a PDA operator.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 11, further ~~includes the ability~~ comprising the capability to encode the ~~transmitted data~~ exchanged with the PDA with a security signature derived from the ~~card~~ magnetic stripe data.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 1, further ~~including~~ comprising a wireless personal identification number pad ("PIN pad") for the purpose of facilitating applications requiring the customer entry of a personal identification number, and allowing a customer, thereby enabling a user to enter a personal identification number to complete a transaction.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for making a ~~PDA attachable device, including magnetic stripe reader ("MSR") attachable to a personal digital assistant ("PDA"), the PDA having a synchronization port and hot sync capabilities, the method comprising the steps of:~~

(a) providing means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means;

(b) providing ~~electrical power transfer means, whereby said PDA attachable device solely derives its electrical power for said operational means from the cradle interface signals supplied by the PDA~~ means for transferring electric power from the PDA to the MSR and for exchanging data between the MSR and the PDA through the PDA synchronization port;

(c) providing ~~power management means for managing electrical power consumption that control an automatic startup of the PDA and of the means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe upon detecting encoded data on the magnetic stripe, whereby said PDA attachable device efficiently controls power consumption to conserve PDA-supplied electrical power enabling greater operational times for said operational means;~~

(d) providing attachment means for the purpose of firmly securing said magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe to the PDA; and

(e) providing a ~~hot sync connection cradle~~ connector to enable electrical and data communication between said ~~PDA attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader and the PDA connected thereto.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method for making a ~~PDA attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 14, wherein said step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe further includes the step of providing a ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe having a removable memory module for data logging in data applications where the PDA does not support non-volatile memory.~~ removable processor/memory module.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method for making a ~~PDA attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 15, wherein said step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe further includes the step of providing a ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means having a removable memory module wherein said removeable memory module includes a memory module.~~ a removable programmable processor/memory module capable of storing multiple data format specifications and of

converting varied magnetic stripe data formats into a standardized single format for data logging and ~~[[or]]~~ outputting to ~~[[a]]~~ the PDA.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method for making a ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 16, wherein ~~said step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means includes the step of providing a magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means having a memory module wherein said memory~~ said processor/memory module is capable of storing multiple data format specifications and converting varied magnetic stripe data formats into a standardized single format for data logging and or outputting to a PDA further includes the ability to limit or prevent sensitive data from being sent preventing transmission to the PDA of predetermined types of data encoded on a magnetic stripe.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method for making a ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 14, wherein said step of providing a ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means~~ for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe further includes the step of providing a ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means having a removable processor~~ processor/memory module ~~[[for]]~~ capable of uploading field installable application software, such as including software for age verification applications.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method for making a ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 14, wherein said step of providing a ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means~~ for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe further includes the step of providing a ~~magnetic stripe reader attachable to a PDA with the means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe~~ having the capability to verify of verifying the authenticity of the magnetic stripe data before sending the magnetic stripe data to the PDA.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method for making a ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 14, wherein said step of providing a ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means~~ for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe further includes the step of providing a ~~magnetic stripe reader attached to a PDA with the means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe~~ with the capability to encode the sensitive magnetic stripe data before sending of encrypting and storing the data ~~[[to]]~~ exchanged with the PDA thereby allowing sensitive information such as credit card

~~numbers to be forwarded to the~~ prior to forwarding said data to a processing agency without being available to the readable by a PDA operator.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method for making a ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 14, wherein said step of providing a ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means~~ for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe further includes the step of providing a ~~magnetic stripe reader attached to a PDA with the ability to encode the transmitted~~ the means for reading and decoding a magnetic stripe with the capability to encode the data exchanged with the PDA with a security signature derived from the ~~card~~ magnetic stripe data.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method for making a ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 14, further including the step of providing a wireless personal identification number pad ("PIN pad") ~~for the purpose of facilitating applications requiring the customer entry of a personal identification number, and allowing a customer, thereby enabling a user~~ to enter a personal identification number to complete a transaction.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method for making a ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 23, wherein said step of providing ~~power management means for managing electrical power consumption~~ comprise the additional step of providing the means for managing electrical power with the capability of triggering, whereby said PDA attachable device efficiently controls power consumption to conserve PDA-supplied electrical power enabling greater operational times for said operational means includes the initiation of an automatic startup of the PDA ~~during a card swipe accomplished by imitating the PDA's hot sync operation~~ upon detecting encoded data on the magnetic stripe by simulation a hot sync of the PDA.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method for making a ~~PDA-attachable device~~ magnetic stripe reader according to claim 24, wherein said automatic startup of the PDA ~~during a card swipe upon detecting encoded data on the magnetic stripe~~ is accomplished by replacing the PDA's hot sync driver with a driver that differentiates between ~~[[a]]~~ the hot sync and said ~~magnetic stripe containing data reading and writing operational means~~ for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe, and thereby said driver sets the PDA to operate accordingly.

Claim 26 (new): The magnetic stripe reader according to claim 1, wherein the means for reading and decoding data on a magnetic stripe operate with a maximum power consumption of 2 mA while reading and decoding data, and of 300 μ A in an idle state.

Claim 27 (new): The magnetic stripe reader according to claim 1, wherein the MSR is enclosed in a housing shaped like a cradle that retains at least a portion of the PDA.

Claim 28 (new): The magnetic stripe reader according to claim 27, wherein the PDA is equipped with detachable PDA cradle creating a hot sync connection between the PDA and a personal computer, wherein the MSR housing is shaped to fit between the PDA and the PDA cradle, and wherein the MSR housing comprises a first connector connected to the PDA synchronization port and a second connector connected to the PDA cradle, the first and second connectors enabling the hot sync connection of the PDA with the personal computer through the magnetic stripe reader.

Claim 29 (new): The magnetic stripe reader according to claim 5, further comprising a second removable processor/memory module inserted in a corresponding external slot in the magnetic stripe reader, the second programmable/processor module being capable of storing different data formats and software.

Claim 30 (new): The magnetic stripe reader according to claim 13, wherein the magnetic stripe reader prevents the transmission of the personal identification number from the PIN pad to the PDA.

Claim 31 (new): The magnetic stripe reader according to claim 27, wherein the PIN pad is an integral part of said housing.